

# ADVOCATES

## 2008 Award Recipients Named

*Beth M. Green, Program Director*

### REVIEW BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**Charles "Chuck" Koches**  
Local Review Board 9B,  
Berkeley County

*2008 Review Board Member of the Year*

**Charles "Chuck" Koches** has served on the Foster Care Review Board since 2004 and is currently Chairperson of Review Board 9B in Berkeley County. Known for his poise and professionalism at reviews, Chuck is a skilled collaborator who has established positive relationships with all community partners. Chuck is admired for his effective handling of difficult cases, treating all parties with respect, and keeping reviews focused on permanence for children. Also known for his flexibility and willingness to substitute on other Review

Boards to ensure quorums, Chuck has become a favorite substitute of many staff and board members.

Chuck routinely attends quarterly partners meetings and case specific meetings to advocate for children reviewed by Board 9B. He led several initiatives with both Review Boards in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit to support the Department of Social Services and children in foster care. He frequently attends court to present the Board's recommendation for consideration.

In addition, Chuck has established a rapport with members of his local legislative delegation and has educated them on the work of the Review Board and on the needs of children in Berkeley County. As a member of the State Board of Director's Legislative Committee, Chuck spent a day in Washington, D.C. with Representative Henry Brown advocating on issues impacting children.

Chuck arranged to have a training program in his church, through the Darkness to Light organization, to educate members about the impact of sexual abuse. A loving husband, father and grandfather, Chuck continues to make time to give back to his community. The Foster Care Review Board and the children in Berkeley County are fortunate to have Chuck on our team. Congratulations, Chuck! We are proud of you!

**South Carolina  
Governor's Office  
Children's Foster  
Care Review Board**  
Mark Sanford, Governor

**Volume 23, Issue 1  
Winter 2009**

We are also extremely proud and appreciative of the following individuals who were nominated for their contributions as Review Board members: **Diane Rieg and Dan Austin (4B), Herman Young and Alyson Wissinger (6A), Mary Ann Riley and Zora Massing (7C), Kathleen Bounds (9E), Jill McDonald (10C), Beth Humphries (13B), Jane Daniel (13C), Heather Purtle (13D), Mary Beth Halvorson (15B), and Karen Walto (16A).** Congratulations, nominees! You are all winners in our eyes.

*(see Award Recipients on page 6)*

### Mission Statement

The Foster Care Review Program provides an external system of accountability and advocacy for children and families involved with the foster care system. The Division utilizes panels of community volunteers to promote safe, permanent homes for children in foster care in a timely manner and to increase public awareness regarding the impact of child abuse and neglect.

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## Directly Speaking ... Details from Denise

By Denise T. Barker, Executive Director

*"We all know the life chances of children are vastly improved when they are the top priority of supportive families and communities. While all states provide a basic network of social programs to assist vulnerable children and families, a huge gap exists on a wide variety of child well-being indicators. The state they live in should not adversely influence the life and death of children—but it does. Such inequalities affect all Americans, rich and poor alike, and weaken both our economy and our democracy. From "Geography Matters: Child Well-being in the States," Every Child Matters Education Fund, <http://www.everychildmatters.org/National/Resources/Geography-Matters.html>*

This is a great website, unless you're from South Carolina and you care about what's happening with our children. Then it becomes a very disturbing website. I have always known that South Carolina did not spend a lot of money on child welfare programs, but to learn we are ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the country? Rock bottom? No other state worse than us? Even State #49, Indiana, spends \$10.00 more per child than we do. Humiliating. In fact, South Carolina does not make it into the top 25 on **ANY** of the measures of child well-being defined by this organization. For an additional five of the twelve measures, we rank in the bottom ten – deaths of infants per 1,000 live births, births to teen mothers, children living in poverty and the child vulnerability index.

Who cares? Are these measures really so important? Really smart people who study the things that matter to society tell us that when children are neglected, it has a negative effect on all of us. Our country and state are in one of the worst downward economic spirals we have ever experienced. Maybe we should have paid more attention to what was happening to our children, or not happening for them. If only we had cared enough to make someone really listen and really prioritize. Unfortunately there always seem to be bigger issues,

things that REALLY matter to this state, and the children's issues can wait. The children are still waiting....

I like to think of myself as an eternal optimist, but it is hard to see state government crumbling around me and not be afraid – afraid for all the small South Carolinians we struggle to protect – the ones who have no voice. I'm going to need some renewed courage and the will to keep making noise. When we get to the "future" we are all allegedly working so hard to create, I want healthy, productive people there. People who grew up knowing that in their childhood there were adults who stood up and said "I CARE! Children ARE important in South Carolina and we are going to make them a priority." It will take extraordinary action right now if we really hope to arrive at that future. To paraphrase our new President - it's not just about what our elected officials will do to make necessary changes in the way we do business, it's also about what we the people who love this country, this state and our children, can do to change it.

It's going to take all of us. Will you join me?

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## Review Board Staff News and Updates

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We are pleased to welcome **Emily Askey** to the Foster Care Review Team. Emily returns to South Carolina after working with United Cerebral Palsy of New York for two years. Emily holds an MSW from the University of South Carolina and received her undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston. Emily is the coordinator for the 1B, 7A, 7C and 14B Review Boards. All of us in the office are excited to have her on our team!

Review Board Business Manager **Felicia Lorick** and husband Rodney welcomed the birth of their second daughter, **Logan Skye Lorick**, on September 19, 2008. She weighed 8 lbs, 4 oz and was 21 inches long. Welcome Logan!



## ***Strictly by the Board*** ***News from the State Board of Directors***

***By Sissy Brock, Chairperson, State Board of Directors***

The State Board of Directors has high hopes that the four vacancies currently open on the State Board will be filled soon. With the Legislature back in session, we hope to have some new members confirmed by the Senate in the coming months. That will certainly make things a little easier for the three current members! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the large percentage of you who have agreed to temporarily suspend your per diem and/or travel expenses as we work through this very difficult budget year. These are hard times for everyone, so your willingness to forego these payments means even more and makes me appreciate the large number of caring, dedicated volunteers we have serving on our local boards. On behalf of all of the State Board, and the Review Board staff - thank you. Please remember to continue tracking and submitting your volunteer hours on your blue sheets as these are more valuable than they have ever been. Again, I thank you all for the time and commitment you bring to this program. I look forward to continuing our many good works on behalf of South Carolina's children in foster care.

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### **State Board Members**

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**Martha "Sissy" Brock, 5th Congressional District, Chairperson (local review board 7B)**

*Vacant, 1st Congressional District*

*Jo Hecker, 2nd Congressional District (local review board 5B)*

*Vacant, 3rd Congressional District*

*Vacant, 4th Congressional District*

*Vacant, 6th Congressional District*

*Vernon McCurry, Member at-Large (local review board 13C)*

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#### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REVIEW BOARD VOLUNTEER?**

- ♦ You need to be at least 18 years of age and able to commit to spending one day per month reviewing cases. You will be asked to work with others in the child welfare system to bring about positive change for foster children.
  - ♦ Each review board member is appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of legislative delegations, and is required to reside in the judicial district of the review board of which he or she is a member.
  - ♦ For more information, please call the Governor's Office Foster Care Review Program at 803-734-0480, or contact your local legislative delegation.
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## ***Legislative Day at the State House***

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**On Thursday, April 2nd**, Children's Trust of South Carolina will sponsor its annual *Legislative Day at the State House*—a great opportunity for Review Board volunteers to meet and talk with their legislative representatives. The event will be held at the State House in Columbia. For updated details, visit the Children's Trust of South Carolina website at <http://www.scchildren.org>.

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child abuse is behavior directed toward children that results in harm or injury or that seriously interferes with normal child development. Each year there are over two million victims of child abuse and neglect in the United States. **In South Carolina during the last fiscal year there were nearly 19,000 reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. Of those reported cases, over 9,000 were investigated by the Department of Social Services.** The damage caused by child abuse is associated with school failure, criminality, drug and alcohol abuse, and physical and psychological problems.

In communities around the country, April is observed as Child Abuse Prevention Month in an effort to raise awareness about abuse, promote nonviolent discipline and good communication between parents and children, and inform families about community resources.

Learn more about the history of the month, see examples of Presidential and State proclamations, and find strategies for engaging communities and supporting families at <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth>.

## May is National Foster Care Month

**YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFETIME!** Learn how at <http://www.fostercaremonth.org>

All children deserve a safe, happy life — including the 513,000 American children and youth in foster care. Young people in foster care especially need nurturing adults on their side because their own families are in crisis and unable to care for them.

Each May, National Foster Care salutes the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and community volunteers. Thanks to these unsung heroes, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens will either safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families.

### Children's Foster Care Review Board Program Staff

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## ***Committed to Kids! Smiling New Faces***

Review Board New Member Orientation was held on October 20, 2008 for three new local review board members and one new staff member. Orientation was also held on January 26, 2009 for thirteen new local review board members. Sue Williams, Executive Director, SC Children's Trust also joined our January group.

Orientation training is mandatory for all incoming board members and is offered at least four times each year. If you have review board members who have not completed this training, please encourage their attendance. Volunteer Guardians ad Litem, Guardian ad Litem staff, and other child welfare professionals are also welcome to attend. Please call (803) 734-0480 to reserve a space. The next **New Member Orientation will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009.**



### **October 20th:**

**Standing:** Mikel Peeler, RB 16B; Anthony VanDross, RB 9D

**Seated:** Virginia Infinger, RB 1B; Emily Askey, RB Coordinator.



### **January 26th:**

**Standing:** Leisa Jones, RB 13D; Levone Bell, RB 12B; Tiffany Saunders, RB 12A; Gene Coon, RB 9E; Julia Watson, RB 15B; Jerry McCurry, RB 15A; Cathy Griffin, RB 2B; Brenda Lipe, RB 13B; and Tammy Kowaleski, RB 13C.

**Seated:** Barbara Solley, RB 14B; Sue Williams, SC Children's Trust; Helen Frazier, RB 9A; Fran Jones, RB 15B; and Betty Box, RB 9F.

## ***2008 Award Recipients (continued)***

### **REVIEW BOARDS OF THE YEAR**

**9B – Lois Dennis, Stephanie Easterling, Chuck Koches, Rosetta Givens Mitchell and Jan Moore**

**9E – Kathleen Bounds, David Fitzpatrick, Walter Mitchell and Randy Shephard**

Review Boards 9B and 9E of **Berkeley County** exemplify what can be accomplished through leadership, a shared vision, group commitment and community involvement. All of these active board members have excellent attendance at reviews, frequently substitute for other boards and routinely attend court. They are also known for extensive advocacy with caseworkers, supervisors, the county director, guardians ad litem, and others outside the agency, with their focus always being safety, permanence and the best interest of the child. When these board members met with a Family Court judge in their circuit, he was so impressed with the information provided and the manner in which it was presented that he requested a second meeting.

The Berkeley County board members are also avid supporters of the SC Heart Gallery. In 2008, they volunteered at a photo shoot, donated snacks for children and photographers, and purchased frames for photographs.

These boards have also worked hard to support the Department of Social Services and build a rapport with the caseworkers and supervisors. Together, the two boards established a fund for the Berkeley Department of Social Services, which is used to send children to camp, and purchase lunch for children and caseworkers following medical appointments when children miss lunch at school. The board members also take a deserving caseworker to lunch each month based on an excellent presentation to the board from the previous month. Both of these initiatives have proven effective in supporting the agency, rewarding quality casework, and building relationships with caseworkers and supervisors. Congratulations to each of you on your accomplishments as a team!

The following boards were nominated as Review Boards of the Year: **Review Board 10C (Anderson County) and Review Board 16A (York and Union Counties)**. These boards have done exciting things to promote permanence for children in their communities. Thank you and congratulations on your nomination!

### **ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**

#### **The Honorable George M. McFaddin, Jr.**

Many of you may remember Judge McFaddin, who spoke at our 2007 Annual Professional Development Day. Since being elected to the Family Court of the Third Judicial Circuit in 2002, Judge McFaddin has been a friend to children and families, and a supporter of child advocates.

In 2008, upon seeing the backlog of cases of children awaiting adoption consummation hearings, Judge McFaddin initiated and devoted two days to making 25 children members of forever families. On May 27, 2008, the adoptions of 13 children were finalized, and on November 24, 2008, adoption was completed for 12 children. The Foster Care Review Board legal team of Michelle Dhunjishah and Shannon Wiley were present to witness the joy shared by all.

Currently, Judge McFaddin serves as chairperson to the Bench/Bar Committee. Denise Barker, Executive Director, and Michelle Dhunjishah, General Counsel, also serve on this committee and work with Judge McFaddin and other committee members to strengthen the legal system's representation of children and families.

Judge McFaddin received his undergraduate degree, Masters in Public Administration and Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina. A native of Sumter County, he is married and has two daughters.



Congratulations, Judge McFaddin! On behalf of the 25 children, who are no longer in foster care, but are members of loving permanent families, we thank you.

# South Carolina Heart Gallery

By Millie Qualls, Heart Gallery Coordinator

## **RECORD YEAR FOR SC HEART GALLERY**

2008 was a banner year, bringing the opportunity to see how far we have come, especially with our new collaborative partnership between Foster Care Review and SCSSS.

- ♦ We've gone from completing two exhibits in 2005 to completing 54 in 2008.
- ♦ Our website received an average of 26 daily visitors in 2005, increasing to 432 average daily visitors in 2008. Most importantly, 380 inquiries were received from families interested in adopting our waiting children.
- ♦ 77 children were photographed in 2008; facilitated by 20 volunteer photographers and many of our own Foster Care Review volunteers and staff - - many thanks for your assistance.
- ♦ 45% of children referred to the Heart Gallery since 2005 have been matched with adoptive families - - an outstanding result!

We are busy scheduling photo shoots and public exhibits for 2009 and will call on all of you as needed. Please continue to let us know your ideas for bringing the Heart Gallery to your communities. In addition to exhibiting the children's photos, we are also available to speak to your local civic, faith, or other organizations.



**SC Heart Gallery Exhibit  
Center for the Arts, Rock Hill, SC  
January 22, 2009**

If you have not visited the Heart Gallery website recently, please do so, as it has been updated with many new photos. Just go to <http://www.scheartgallery.org>.





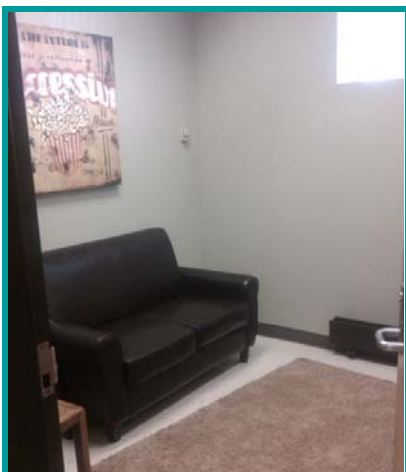
## Review Board Round-up

By Anne Maertens, RB Coordinator

Voluntarism is alive and well in Greenville County! Just ask the members of Vernon McCurry's Sunday school class from Edwards Road Baptist Church. On Saturday, October 4, 2008, twenty-two members of the church committed their time and talents to "renovating" the visitation rooms at Greenville County DSS. Earlier in the year, Beth Humphries of Review Board 13B identified the need for updating the visitation rooms at DSS. The paint was tired, the toys were broken, and the furniture was showing the extensive use it received. Vernon McCurry of the State Board and local Review Board 13C took the idea to the members of his church.



Marion Terry, Clark Riddle, Dennis Weathers, & Robby Compton get to work



The "teen" room!

His Sunday school class was looking for a service project, and jumped on the idea of beautifying the rooms for families to visit their children in foster care – especially because Vernon's passion for foster children is so widely known in his church community! Everything came together for a wonderful project and outcome; one member of the Sunday school class was an interior designer, who put her gifts to good use when conceptualizing the design schemes for the rooms – and even created a "teen-themed" room for the older children in foster care. The volunteers from Edwards Road Baptist Church received donations of paint, fabric, toys, and books. The members also purchased some new furnishings and artwork for some of the visitation rooms.

The end result offered fresh, clean, bright and happy visitation rooms with new toys and books for the children, and more comfortable surroundings for all parties. The Foster Care Review Board – and especially the families that visit at DSS – are extremely appreciative of the efforts from these awesome volunteers!

Thank you to the following families and people: Rudy Ables, Don Alewine, the Boitnott family, Chuck & Emily Bolt, Maxine & Robby Compton, Howard Duncan, Joe Harrigan, Cecil & Jeannie Hart, Jim & Debbie Mensone, Marion & Faye Rentz, Clark Riddle, Marion & Lynn Terry, and Dennis & Kim Weathers.



Jeanie Hart takes a break from painting to smile!



## Review Board Round-up (continued)

♦ **Review Board 2A:** Board members provided hygiene bags for various age groups to Aiken DSS. These bags were presented to children as they entered foster care. Thank you to each of the board members for this thoughtful service project. *Karen Airasian*

♦ **Review Board 2B:** Board members provided school items for the children at Helping Hands in Aiken. Additionally, they selected Lynn Pinson (pictured right with Board Chair Steve McElmurray) of Aiken DSS as Case Manager of the Year. Lynn was thrilled to be selected as the winner for 2008. The Board appreciates Ms. Pinson's dedication and service to the children in her county. We wish her well in her new position in the treatment division of DSS.

*Karen Airasian*

♦ **Review Boards 5B, 5C, and 5D:** Board members held a Holiday party for workers supervisors from DSS Foster Care, Adoptions, Clinical Services, and included Child Care volunteers Mrs. South Carolina Kimberly Sullivan and Senator Joel Lourie. (pictured right).

*Rachel Silver*

♦ **Review Board 7C:** Several Board members helped out at the Glenn Springs Halloween Carnival. The girls from Ellen Hines Smith and Anchor House were also along for the fun. The children enjoyed food, games, a bonfire, and story telling. Board Members MaryAnn Riley and Zora Massing spent hours shopping for Halloween decorations and door prizes. All of 7C contributed to the evening either with food, trick-or-treat bags, time or presence. *Monica Hill*

♦ **Review Board 9A:** The 9A Charleston Board Members provided goodies for the foster care staff during the December meeting. The Board also continued to award ten dollar gift cards to the case manager who does a wonderful job presenting cases. This award program is a hit with the foster care workers! Thank you Don Lundy, Carrie Grady and Doris Smalls for your wonderful advocacy work.

*Michelle White*

♦ **Review Boards 9B and 9E:** Board members contributed to the Foster Care Restricted Fund throughout 2008. This fund enabled a Berkeley County child to attend a church camp, another child to attend a YMCA summer camp, and several children were provided with lunch on days they were removed from school to attend appointments. A big thank you to each of the Berkeley County board members for their generosity and compassion. The Berkeley County boards also continued to recognize outstanding case management by taking a DSS, IFC&CS, GAL, or Adoptions worker to lunch each month in honor of their excellent presentation from the previous month.

This ongoing project has significantly helped improve relationships between the agency and the FCRB.

*Karen Airasian*



RB 2B Chair Steve McElmurray and Lynn Pinson, Aiken DSS



Richland County Holiday Party  
Above: Shirel Frazier, Remona Jenkins, Barbara Watson,  
Jo Hecker, and Rachel Silver

Below: Alan Carter, Richland County Director,  
Mrs. SC Kimberly Sullivan, and Senator Joel Lourie



## Review Board Round-up (continued)

- ◆ **Review Boards 9C:** The 9C Charleston Board Members donated \$250 to “A Room at the Inn”, a program that helps foster children who are pregnant. The program assists teenagers in furthering their education, obtaining life skills and developing appropriate parenting techniques. Thank you for your generous contribution Steve Cramer, Jill Stevenson, Jerry Craig and Katherine Duffy.

The Charleston County Foster Care Review Boards donated \$750 to Charleston DSS in order to supply Christmas gifts for children entering foster care in late November and December. The Boards did not want the children to be forgotten during the holiday season. Thank you to all the Board Members. You truly are the best. *Michelle White*

- ◆ **Review Board 10C:** Review Board members commissioned artist Ray Jones (pictured right) to brighten up one of the visitation rooms in Anderson County. Mr. Jones painted long-time cartoon favorites Yosemite Sam, Bugs Bunny, Sylvester, Daffy Duck, and of course, Porky Pig in a mural.

*Stephanie Spink*

- ◆ **Review Board 12A:** Chairperson Susie Bennett (pictured right) represented the Foster Care Review Board in outstanding fashion at the Stand Up for Children Rally in Florence in November 2008. Susie was among the speakers for the event that highlighted the need for permanent homes for children in foster care and the role that volunteer GALs play. GALs participated in the ceremonies by holding 100 life-size child cutouts, which represent the number of children who enter the family court system in South Carolina each week due to abuse or neglect.

*Stephen Clyburn*

- ◆ **Review Boards 16A and 16B:** The York/Union Foster Care Review Boards provided breakfast and lunch for the Foster Care staff on December 9, 2008. What a wonderful time for the Board Members and Foster Care staff! It was a festive occasion and the Board Members wanted to show how much they appreciate DSS staff and all the hard work they do.

*Michelle White*



Above: Stand up for Children Rally, Florence, SC  
Below: RB Chairperson Susie Bennett



Above: Artist Ray Jones and RB 10C Member Ed Zielinske  
Below: Cartoon Mural





## Review Board Round-up (continued)

### Review Board 7B

State Board Chairperson and local review board member Sissy Brock enlisted the help of her sisters to decorate a lovely Christmas tree (pictured right) for the Open Arms Foster Parent Association (FPA) at the *Festival of Trees*. This annual event is held at City Hall in downtown Gaffney. Non-profit organizations decorate a tree to be displayed during the month of December and the public is invited to come by and vote (1 vote for each \$1 contributed) for their favorite tree. 100% of the proceeds donated go directly to each participating organization. The paper ornaments on the FPA tree were made by some of the foster children reviewed in Cherokee County. In addition to raising money for the FPA, several families inquired about fostering children.

*Sissy Brock, RB 7B and Melissa DeBorde, Open Arms FPA*



## Legal Lines: Legislative Update

*By Michelle Dhunjishah, General Counsel*

### State Legislative Update

The 2009-2010 legislative session is underway and I continue to monitor bills impacting children in foster care. The most significant pieces of legislation pending are Senate Bill 284 and House Bill 3311, which are identical, companion bills. These bills would speed up and streamline the TPR and adoption process, which would result in more timely permanence for children in foster care. More specifically, these bills would:

- ♦ Establish a Responsible Father registry – which would eliminate the need for DSS to publish on “John Doe” prior to terminating parental rights
- ♦ Require termination of parental rights hearings to take place within 120 days of filing the complaint
- ♦ Allow DSS or the party petitioning for TPR to serve the child’s GAL with the TPR Complaint if the child is under fourteen years of age

This legislation is based on recommendations from the Governor’s Children in Foster Care and Adoption Services Task Force, which issued its report in March 2008. At the time of publication, these bills are both in subcommittees; however, we will update you as they progress. Due to budget constraints, the legislators are not meeting as often, so legislation may take longer to get through the process. The full text of these bills is available at <http://www.scstatehouse.net>. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

### Federal Legislative Update

In September 2008, Congress passed H.R. 6893, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-321). This legislation is intended to improve outcomes for children in foster care by:

- ♦ Requiring states to make reasonable efforts to place siblings together when removed from parents home (if appropriate)
- ♦ Requiring that children stay in their same schools when they enter foster care (if appropriate)
- ♦ Requiring notice to relatives when children enter foster care
- ♦ Increasing adoption incentives for foster care adoptions
- ♦ Authorizing subsidized guardianship payments for relative caregivers
- ♦ Expanding the availability of federal training dollars for staff working with children in the child welfare system

The full text of this law is available at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-6893>; however, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone with any questions.

## South Carolina Governor's Office Children's Foster Care Review Board

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**Visit us on the Web:**  
**[www.oepp.sc.gov/fcrb](http://www.oepp.sc.gov/fcrb)**

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### Review Board Calendar

New Member Orientation	Mon Mar 16	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Edgar Brown Building
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#### **April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Volunteer Appreciation Month**

#### **May is National Foster Care Month**

Legislative Day at the State House	Thur April 2	State House Complex Columbia
State Board of Directors	Fri May 1	Edgar Brown Building Columbia
New Member Orientation	Mon May 4	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Edgar Brown Building
Memorial Day	Mon May 25	State Offices Closed
Independence Day	Fri July 3	State Offices Closed
State Board of Directors	Fri July 24	Edgar Brown Building Columbia
New Member Orientation	Mon Aug 24	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Edgar Brown Building

All locations in Columbia, unless otherwise noted; times subject to change.  
Submissions are welcome; please direct them to the editor.

*Advocates* is published semi-annually by the South Carolina Governor's Office. The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of *Advocates* (Summer 2009) is August 14, 2009.

Anyone wishing to submit an article should contact *Advocates* editor Lisa Vosburgh. Call 803-734-0474, or send an e-mail to [lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov](mailto:lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov).

The publisher reserves the right to make the final determination as to the content of each issue. Articles submitted are subject to editing and are not guaranteed inclusion.

**NOTICE:**  
**If you no longer wish to receive  
this publication, please notify  
us in writing by  
September 4, 2009.**